Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18 TO DECEMBER 22, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Gross Domestic Product (1992$ millions)	October 796,986	0.5%	4.6%	Canadian GDP growth resumed in October (0.5%) led by a rebound in manufacturing (1.3%). Services- and goods-producing sectors increased by 0.4%, and 0.7% respectively. The increase in services was led by wholesale trade (1.4%), while the manufacturing increase was led by electrical and electronic equipment (3.2%). Canadian GDP grew 4.6% in October over the same month last year.
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	December			The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. In December the index fell for British Columbia (-0.6), Newfoundland (-0.5), and Nova Scotia (-0.5). Prince Edward Island (2.9), Alberta (1.7), and Ontario (1.0) had the largest gains. Alberta (19.2%) had the second highest year over year increase behind Prince Edward Island (22.9%).
Alberta	180	1.7%	19.2%	
Canada	181	0.0%	7.7%	
Wholesale Trade ($millions)	October			In September, Alberta wholesale trade increased by 1.4%, compared to national increase of 1.2%. Agricultural chemicals accounting for 11.2% of sales were the largest contributor of growth. Provinces experiencing the strongest growth were Saskatchewan (7.6%), Nova Scotia (5.5%), and Manitoba (3.1%). The only decline was in New Brunswick (-1.1%).
Alberta	3,115	1.4%	11.2%	
Canada	31,954	1.2%	4.5%	
Retail Sales ($millions)	October			In October, retail sales declined by 0.9% in Canada from September. Every province experienced a decline from September, including Alberta (-1.3%). The decline was caused by lower sales of motor and recreational vehicles. Excluding this, retail sales increased by 0.9%. From October 1999 to October of 2000, Alberta (4.6%) had the largest increase in retail sales among the provinces.
Alberta	2,668	-1.3%	4.6%	
Canada	23,293	-0.9%	3.7%	